



Sheila Dixon

*Mayor,
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Mayor Dixon Signs ‘Eviction Chattel’ Bill Into Law

Baltimore, MD (October 1, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by City Council President Stephanie Rawlings Blake and members of the Baltimore City Council to sign City Council Bill 07-0665, which will change the way the property belonging to evicted tenants, called ‘eviction chattel’, is handled.

“This is a great day for our city, for property owners, and for residents,” said Mayor Dixon. “Now, the possessions of evicted tenants will be removed and seamlessly disposed of by the evicting landlords but only after ample notice to the tenants.

The ‘Eviction Chattel’ legislation was introduced by Councilman Kenneth Harris to eliminate difficulties in the eviction process for tenants, property owner and the city.

Now, evicted tenants will have an opportunity to reclaim their possessions, and the city will no longer be responsible for cleaning up after an eviction. Tenants will be given earlier, better and more specific notice of the actual date of eviction and will have a far better and longer opportunity to remove their personal possessions. Fines for anyone continuing the old practice of dumping these possessions in the public streets or on the sidewalks will increase from \$100 to \$1,000

As a result of the changes, the City will be able to redeploy city employees previously responsible for disposing of eviction chattel – at a cost to the taxpayers of \$750,000 per year.

“We owe it to those citizens who work hard every day trying to make ends meet, but who may have fallen on hard times, the dignity and respect that they deserve as human beings,” said City Council President Stephanie Rawlings Blake. “This bill recognizes that property owners have an obligation to their tenants as well as their community. I am proud of my colleagues in the City Council, and applaud the efforts of Mayor Dixon, for having the courage to take on this difficult issue.”

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